(c) whether it is also a fact that ONGC has agreed to pay the same fee at which RIL had hired *i.e.* $ 5,50,000 per day excluding support services at the time when the demand for rigs was sky rocketing because of high oil prices;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reasons for hiring rigs without calling tenders at such a high price?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) to (e) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) charter hired newly constructed ultra deep water drilling rig named DDKG 1 from M/s. Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) for a period of 4 years on rig-assignment-basis at the same rates, terms and conditions of the contract as hired by M/s. RIL from M/s. Deepwater Pacific 1 Inc, British Virgin Islands. The contract for DDKG 1 is between RIL and Deep Water Pacific Inc for 5 years.

The contract operating day rate for the rig is US$ 4,95,000 for the first 180 days and US$ 5,10,000 for 181st day onwards excluding support services. The assignment contract does not involve any extra mark-up payment to RIL.

Import of LNG

2883. SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of natural gas now being produced indigenously along with the details of the manufacturers and consumers thereof; and

(b) the quantity of gas being imported as Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) since 2005 and the details of the consumers thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) 131.68 million metric standard cubic metres per day (mmscmd) of natural gas is being produced indigenously. Details of the same are as follows:-

	(in mmscmd)
ONGC	64.55
Oil India Ltd.	7.03
Private/JVs	60.10
TOTAL	131.68

(b) A total of 28.89 million metric tonnes LNG has been imported since 2005-06. The said LNG has been consumed by customers in various sectors including *inter- alia* power, fertilizers, sponge iron and city gas distribution.

Terror threats to ONGC platforms

2884. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 200 Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) offshore platforms are facing serious terror threats from unregulated and unregistered fishing boats in Arabian sea;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken by Government to protect these platforms;

(d) whether any security check has been set up by Government around these platforms; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) and (b) ONGC has reported extensive intrusion of fishing boats into the oil field development areas which could pose threats to the safety and security of oilfield installations.

(c) to (e) An area of 500 metres radius around the offshore installations have been declared as 'Safety Zone' under Petroleum and Natural Gas (Safety in Offshore Operations) Rules, 2008 in line with the international norms, prohibiting intrusion by unauthorized persons in the Safety Zone.

The installation of Vessel and Air Traffic Management System (VATMS) has strengthened surveillance of the offshore platforms. Regular patrolling of the offshore area is also being done by armed patrol boats.

Government of India constituted Offshore Defence Advisory Group (ODAG) advises the Government on offshore security and defence covering of offshore establishments. Coast Guards and Indian Navy keep constant vigil in consultation with ODAG..

Extension of PNG connections

2885. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to provide Piped Natural Gas (PNG) connections to various cities;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the criteria adopted to select the cities to provide PNG connections?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) and (b) Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has finalized 'Vision-2015' of the Oil and Gas Sector for 'Consumer Satisfaction and Beyond', wherein efforts would be made to provide PNG facilities to 201 more cities by the year 2015. City Gas Distribution (CGD) entities authorized by Central Government, including Joint Ventures of GAIL (India) Limited, are undertaking activities to expand the PNG network. Further, Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) Act, 2006 has been notified to provide a regulatory framework for developing *inter alia* city/local natural gas distribution networks and to promote investment in the sector from both public and private sectors. In accordance with the provisions of PNGRB